

# CutBank

---

Volume 1  
Issue 25 *CutBank* 25

Article 7

---

Fall 1986

## Mayflies

Quinton Duval

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

### Recommended Citation

Duval, Quinton (1986) "Mayflies," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 25 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss25/7>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

## Mayflies

In a thick purple twilight  
mayflies rise from the floor of the lake.  
Born in mud, they live a dark life  
until a message is delivered by something  
we still don't understand. A tapping  
perhaps, a slight heart squeeze  
something such as *home* can give.  
Their lives on the wing are small,  
and by the second sloughing of *chitin*  
their ecstasy begins to die  
like the sun behind our mountain.  
Walking back through the dark  
we see them swirl about the porch light  
snow blind in the work of a quieter world.  
By their very slightness these small things endure  
and drift in triumph against our door.